

Cooking Grease

is the primary cause of most residential pipeline and City sewer main clogs resulting in sewer spills throughout the Metropolitan Wastewater Sewerage area. The spilled sewage eventually reaches San Diego's bays, rivers, and beaches, causing unsafe conditions and temporary closures.

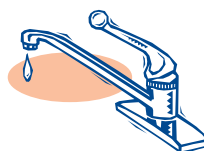
All oils disposed of improperly can cause problems in the sewer system. These include:

- ✓ frying oil
- ✓ salad oil
- ✓ meat drippings
- ✓ bacon fat
- ✓ greasy leftovers



Important Facts

- Cooking grease coats pipelines similar to the way that fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of the pipelines, eventually causing complete blockage.
- Costly home plumbing bills are often the result of grease-clogged pipelines. Residential pipelines clog easily since they are only 2" - 4" in diameter.
- Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily. Grease should NEVER be poured down the drain. If small amounts of grease accidentally get into your drain, flush immediately with COLD water.
- Flushing grease down the toilet also causes sewer backups.



By following a few simple steps, you can help prevent costly sewer spills in the future.

Step 1

All **cooking oil** should be poured into an old milk carton, frozen juice container, or other non-recyclable package, and disposed of in the garbage,



not down the drain.



Step 2

Dishes and pots that are coated with greasy leftovers, should be



wiped clean with a disposable towel prior to washing or placing in dishwashers.

Step 3

Instead of placing fat trimmings from meat in the garbage disposal, please put them in a trash can.

Report Spills!

If you see or smell something you think might be a sewer spill, report it immediately by calling **(619) 515-3525**. Be prepared to describe the location and the nature of the problem.

Other Causes...

- The continual flow of nutrient-filled water found in pipelines attracts tree roots through pipe joints and manholes. The roots eventually grow, causing separation of the pipeline joints. Avoid planting trees and shrubs near residential and City sewer pipelines at all times.
- Rocks, debris, power outages, vandalism, rain and construction are also contributing factors to sewer spills.

About MWWD

The Metropolitan Wastewater Department (MWWD) processes approximately 190 million gallons per day generated by 1.9 million people within 15 cities and districts that comprise the Metropolitan Sewerage System.

For general information, please call (858) 292-6484.



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How To Keep COOKING GREASE Out of the Drain



You Can Help Prevent Sewer Spills